

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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P R 231307Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4264

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMLEASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS ANKARA 3996

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MCAF, TU, GR, CY

SUBJ: TURKISH FONMIN AND DEFMIN ON GREECE, CYPRUS AND
TURKISH DEFENSE

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

SUMMARY: GOT FONMIN GUNES AND DEFMIN ISIK, SPEAKING
ON RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND CYPRUS DURING BUDGET DEBATES IN
PARLIAMENT, REITERATED GOT'S PREFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND
WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND RIGHTS. ISIK ALSO DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENT
OF TURKEY'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. FOLLOWING IS BASED ON
PRESS ACCOUNTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. RELATIONS WITH GREECE. SPEAKING MAY 22, FONMIN GUNES OBSERVED THAT IT BENEFITS BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE, AS MEMBERS OF SAME ALLIANCE, TO LIVE TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED, "WE WILL CERTAINLY NOT ALLOW GREECE TO GNAW AT THE FRINGES OF TURKEY'S RIGHTS OR TO UPSET THE BALANCE. GREECE WOULD LOSE MORE THAN TURKEY IF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS UPSET. I AM SURE THAT OUR GREEK FRIENDS APPRECIATE THIS REALITY". ON MAY 21, SPEAKING ON SAME SUBJECT, DEFMIN ISIK NOTED THAT "TODAY WE WILL INSIST ON RESOLVING OUR PROBLEMS WITH GREECE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WE IWLL ALSO METICULOUSLY SAFEGUARD OUR RIGHTS." ISIK SAID THAT TURKEY'S NEIGHBORS AND ALLIES WERE COMPETING IN AN ARMAMENTS RACE, WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE WORLD PEACE. WITHOUT MENTIONING GREECE BY NAME, HE CONTINUED THAT TURKEY, IN DEVELOPING ITS ARMED FORCES, HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ARMED STRENGTH OF OTHER COUNTRIES "AND ESPECIALLY NEIGHBORING ONES, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE VERY CLOSE FRIENDS". COMMENT: ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, AEGEAN CONTROVERSY WAS NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.

2. CYPRUS. GUNES REITERATED STANDARD TURK POSITION THAT GOT WOULD NEVER ALLOW TURKISH COMMUNITY ON CYPRUS TO BE REDUCED TO STATUS OF A MINORITY.

3. GOT DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. ISIK REMARKED THAT BEING IN A JOINT DEFENSE SYSTEM DID NOT MEAN THAT TURKEY WOULD TIE EVERYTHING TO THIS SYSTEM; IT HAD TO BASE ITS DEFENSES TO A LARGE EXTENT ON ITS OWN RESOURCES. HE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR JOINT MANUFACTURE OF ARMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, AND NOTED THAT TURKEY HAS NEVER GIVEN UP IDEA OF FOUNDING A WAR INDUSTRY AND AVIATION INDUSTRY.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MAY 23 ISSUE OF NEWSPAPER MILLIYET CITES ALLEGED STORIES IN UK JOURNALS LONDON TIMES AND DAILY EXPRESS THAT BOTH NATO AND THE US HAVE ISSUED STIFF WARNING TO GREECE OVER ITS ARMAMENT POLICY AND OVER CONFLICT IT IS CAUSING WITH TURKEY IN AEGEAN.
SPAIN

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